

* * * R E M A R K S * * *

Entry of the present Preliminary Amendment prior to the continued examination of the application is respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled. Claim 8 is being canceled without disclaimer of subject matter, and Claim 9 has been canceled as a result of its subject matter being incorporated into Claim 7.

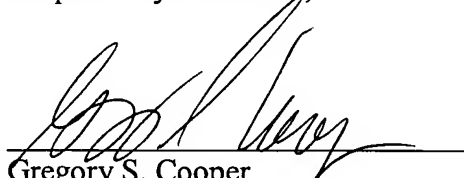
Claim 1 has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Interview Summary stated that Jackson discloses that the walls of its locking portions (66) are slightly larger, or farther apart, than the walls of its pivoting portions (62) due to the necessary tolerances required when aligning two rollers within four separate cam slots, two on each side of the piston rod. Amended Claim 1 includes a limitation that "the distance between the cam walls of the locking portion is substantially equal to the distance between the cam walls of the pivoting portion." The Applicant respectfully believes Jackson is, thus, distinguishable from Claim 1. In addition, Claim 1 is not read upon by the combination of Forster et al. and the British ('263) patent.

Claim 7 has also been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance, as well. Claim 7, as amended, recites "the first locking segment locks each of the jaw members in a closed position until driven by the actuator." Claim 7 is clearly distinguishable from Forster et al. alone or the combination of Forster et al. with British ('263).

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that even the combination of Jackson and British ('263) fails to read on either Claims 1 or 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). As shown in Figure 1 of Jackson, one cross pin (80) is used in actuating two jaw members, each having a pair of cam slots (60), for a total of four cam slots. British ('263), however, teaches two, spaced-apart cam pins (11), (12), which are disposed in cam slots (13), (14), respectively. In addition, arms (5), (6) share the same shaft pivot (9). There is no motivation to combine a reference disclosing a single cam pin driving four slots with a reference disclosing two cam pins each driving a single cam slot. It is respectfully believed such a combination could only be made through hindsight reconstruction.

To the extent additional fees are required, please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (614359/82664), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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